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## OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAUNAL STUDIES AT THE LAKE LABORATORY AT SANDUSKY.\*

HERBERT OSBORN.

It is my desire to call attention to the rather exceptional opportunities for pursuing faunal studies in the vicinity of Sandusky, which are made much more available by the location of a summer laboratory or biological station at that point. The laboratory was located there by Professor Kellicott some years ago and the wisdom of this selection has been amply demonstrated by the wonderfully rich fauna which is found in the water and upon the various areas of land in that vicinity. So far the work has not been carried on so exhaustively as to complete the study of any one group of animals, although considerable progress has been made in certain lines. Professor Kellicott's studies were particularly devoted to Rotifera, and in two or three papers on the "Rotifera of Sandusky Bay" he presents the result of his collecting in that group. The Protozoa have been studied during the past year by Professor F. L. Landacre and his preliminary report upon this group, showing 125 species, will indicate the richness of the Protozoan fauna. The fishes have been collected and probably most of the species are already recognized. The study of the birds is considered as having been fairly complete. For the reptiles some work is being done and this group will doubtless be worked up within a few years. Many insects have been listed, over sixty species of Odonata having been recognized so far, but doubtless other forms are to be found,

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especially if the collections were extended over other months of the year. Some records of Hemiptera have been made, but they cannot be considered as in any way exhaustive at the present time. Extensive collections have been made of the Diptera by Prof. J. S. Hine, but no record as yet is published.

It will be seen from this that scarcely anything has been done in the way of exhaustive study of any one of the groups of worms, crustaceans, mollusks, and a great majority of the groups of insects, in all of which we may be sure that there is an enormous aggregate of species represented.

It appears to me that a systematic survey of the locality is not only possible but that with the large number of students visiting the locality each year we may hope for rapid progress, provided there is definite cooperation to that end. With regard to the value of such studies, we may say that the locality possesses some very unique features and is an exceptionally fine locality for flora, as has been shown by Professors Moseley, Kellerman and others. Many peculiar occurrences of animal groups have been noted that will greatly extend the main distribution of many of the species. To those familiar with the region it is unnecessary to speak of the peculiar and varied conditions presented, but for those who have never visited the locality it will be proper to state that the remarkable conditions are due largely to the presence of an extended stretch of sand—Cedar Point, which extends from six to seven miles and encloses the east arm of Sandusky Bay. This Point is virtually an extended sand dune, or series of dunes, with a flora entirely characteristic of sand dune formations; that the arm of the Bay it encloses is to a considerable part an extended marsh so closely enclosed by islands, points and vegetable growth that the waters are very largely undisturbed.

Within the other arm of the Bay we have the outflow of Sandusky River and a more or less rocky shore with limestone soil, which contrasts strikingly with the sand formations of Cedar Point. Another striking condition is offered in the level prairies in the vicinity of Castalia. On the whole there is, within a radius of five miles of the city of Sandusky, a variety of conditions which it would be hardly possible to duplicate anywhere in the interior of the United States, and which makes possible a great variety of biological studies.

I may add that it is the purpose of the University to develop the biological station, and to this end it desires to make the station accessible and useful to every biological student and especially those who are connected with the colleges and schools of Ohio.

The members of this academy particularly should feel a sense of proprietorship in the station and are most cordially invited to take advantage of its opportunity.